

**RESOLUTION A.340(IX)**

*Adopted on 12 November 1975  
Agenda item 7(c)*

**RECOMMENDATION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF FAIRWAYS  
THROUGH OFF-SHORE EXPLORATION AREAS**

THE ASSEMBLY,

NOTING Article 16(i) of the IMCO Convention concerning the functions of the Assembly,

RECALLING Resolution A.179(VI) by which it adopted the Recommendation on Establishment of Fairways through Off-Shore Exploration Areas,

RECOGNIZING the need for ensuring unencumbered exploitation of sea-bed resources as well as safety at sea,

HAVING CONSIDERED the difficulties which would result from the congestion of navigable waters by off-shore platforms or other similar structures,

HAVING ALSO CONSIDERED the Recommendation adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee at its thirty-third session,

RECOMMENDS that governments:

- (i) ensure that the exploitation of sea-bed resources does not seriously obstruct sea approaches and shipping routes;
- (ii) study the pattern of shipping traffic through off-shore resource exploration areas at an early stage, so as to be able to assess potential interference with marine traffic passing close to or through such areas at all stages of exploitation;
- (iii) where proliferation of oil installations or changes of traffic pattern warrants it, consider the establishment and charting of shipping safety fairways through exploration areas, the positioning of oil rigs, platforms or other similar structures within such fairways being avoided;
- (iv) ensure, as far as practicable, that the oil rigs, platforms and other similar structures are not established within routing schemes adopted by the Organization or near their terminals and that when considering safety fairways the principles adopted by IMCO with respect to routing should as far as possible be applied;
- (v) when the temporary positioning of an exploration rig or similar structure in adopted traffic separation schemes cannot be avoided, ensure that such traffic separation schemes are amended, if necessary, in accordance with the guidelines appearing in the Appendix to this Resolution. Details of such temporary amendments should be forwarded to the Organization and to appropriate hydrographic offices at least two months before the exploration rig is positioned within an adopted traffic separation scheme so as to allow ample time for informing shipping;
- (vi) when the establishment of permanent installations within existing traffic separation schemes cannot be avoided, ensure that the Organization is consulted so that permanent amendments to the scheme may be adopted,

RESOLVES that this Resolution shall replace Resolution A.179(VI).

## APPENDIX

GUIDELINES FOR ADJUSTMENT OF A TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME  
WHEN TEMPORARY POSITIONING OF AN EXPLORATION RIG  
CANNOT BE AVOIDED

1. In every case before the temporary positioning of an exploration rig is permitted within a traffic separation scheme, the following circumstances should be taken into account:

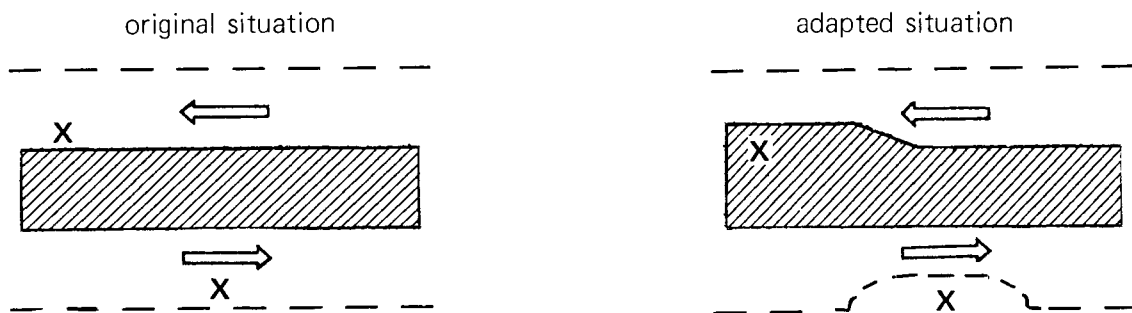
- (a) the principles of the Organization on routing;
- (b) the local circumstances;
- (c) the available sea room in the area involved;
- (d) the density and type of traffic involved;
- (e) the pattern of weather conditions;
- (f) the structure of the sub-soil and the alternative drilling possibilities.

2. If after considering all these circumstances the positioning of a rig cannot be avoided, an amendment to the scheme should be made taking into account the following guidelines:

(a) **Adjustments**

When the drilling location is situated near the boundary of a lane or traffic separation zone, a relatively slight adjustment of the scheme could have such effect that the drilling rig and its associated safety zone is sufficiently clear of the traffic lane.

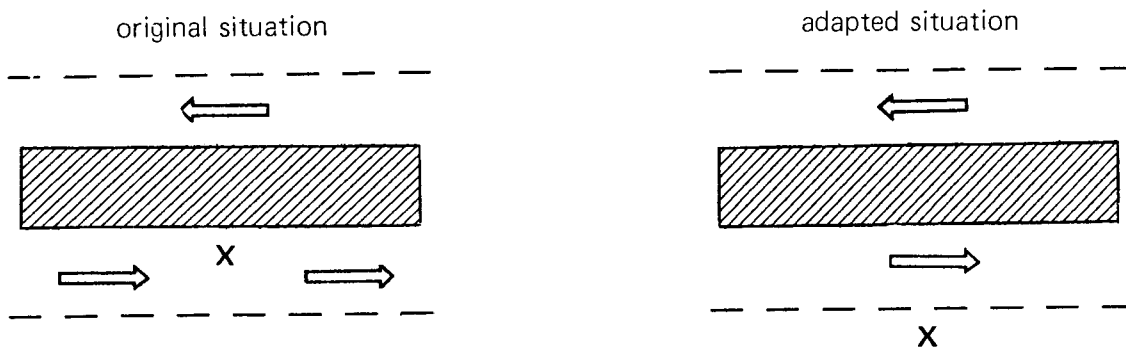
*Example*



(b) **Relocation**

If a small temporary adjustment of the traffic lane is not possible, the whole or part of the scheme could be temporarily shifted in order to clear the drilling area from the lane so that traffic connected with the drilling operations will stay clear of the lane.

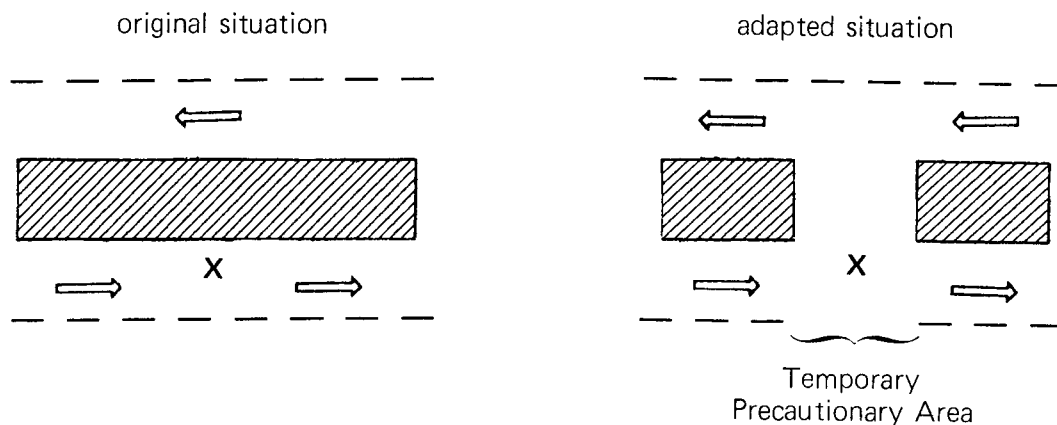
*Example*



(c) **Local interruption**

Temporary local interruption of the scheme or part of the scheme in the area of location of the drilling rig. Such an interruption could be made a precautionary area.

*Example*



(d) **Suspension**

Temporary suspension of the whole scheme.

3. In each case, exploration sites should be reviewed and such conditions specified as the Administration may deem necessary to ensure safety of navigation in the area.